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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 3, 4 and 9. These sheets replace the original sheets. Reference character 27 has been added to Figures 3 and 4. Reference character 53 has been added to Figure 9 and former reference character 53 has been changed to character 50.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 to 9 and 11 to 15 remain in the application.

The disclosure has been amended to correct some obvious errors as noted by the Examiner and Applicant. The drawings have also been amended as required by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended whereby to better define the invention over the main reference cited by the Examiner and namely the Castonguay et al patent, 6,109,906. In view of the amendments made to claim 1, claims 2, 3 and 10 were rendered redundant and have been cancelled.

The main distinction between Applicant's invention and that of Castonguay is that with Applicant's invention the casted stones are roughened on various surfaces and edges in a single pass of the stone through the surface roughing machine. With Castonguay only one surface is roughened during the pass and it is necessary to manually reposition these stones between the pairs of conveyors in order to roughen another surface. This is labour intensive and very costly.

With the present invention and as defined in claim 1, there are at least two pairs of spaced-apart vertically supported narrow conveyor belts which are disposed to simultaneously engage opposed side faces of the concrete block. These pairs of conveyor belts engage opposed side faces in a lower surface section to expose an upper surface section of the blocks to be abraded and the other pair engages the same opposed side faces in an upper surface section to expose a lower surface section of the block to be abraded by further abrading devices. This structure is clearly not shown nor described in the Castonguay patent in question. The Examiner will note that claim 1 was revised to also recite that the lower surface section is being exposed when the conveyor belt engages the upper surface section of the same opposed side surfaces. The claim was also amended to recite the top surface abrading device and the opposed upper side edge abrading devices which are disposed in the in-line conveyor for abrading the same stones without having to reposition these stones at different orientations in the machine, as is the case with

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Castonguay. Claim 1 was further amended to recite that the belts are pressure biased against the opposed side faces of the concrete blocks.

There is no teaching in Castonguay nor in any of the secondary references cited by the Examiner to render obvious the invention as defined by amended claim 1. None of these references teach or suggest having two pairs of spaced apart narrow conveyor belts disposed at different elevations whereby to expose different sections of side walls of concrete blocks to be abraded in a single pass.

In view of the cancellation of some of the claims it was necessary to modify the dependencies of some of the other dependent claims. Claim 5 was also amended to correct an obvious typographic error as noted by the Examiner.

The secondary references have been noted for their teachings as pointed out by the Examiner but seeing that Castonguay is not interpretable on claim 1 as now amended further discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary, but they have been noted for their teachings of specific features.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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(Date)

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Enc.

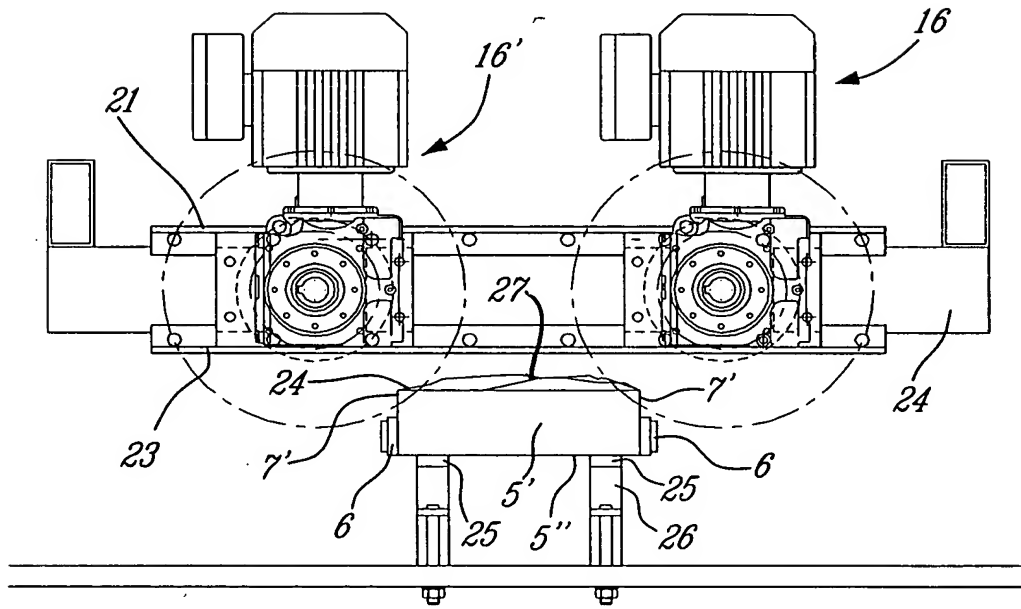


Fig. 3

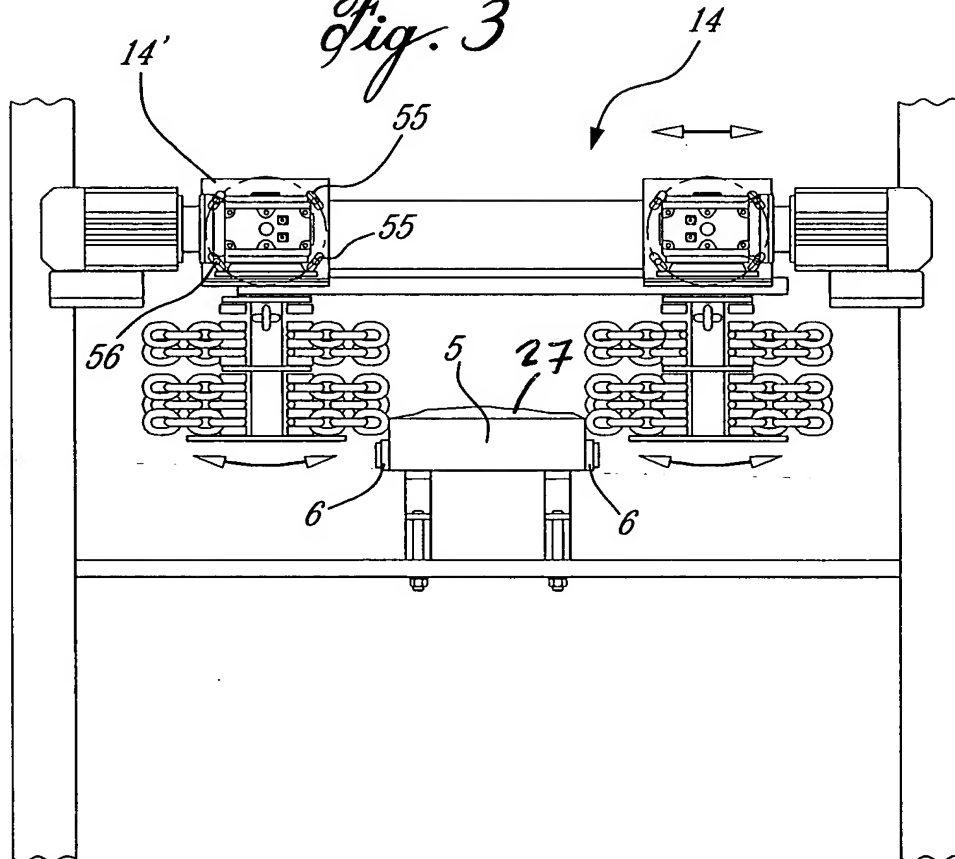


Fig. 4

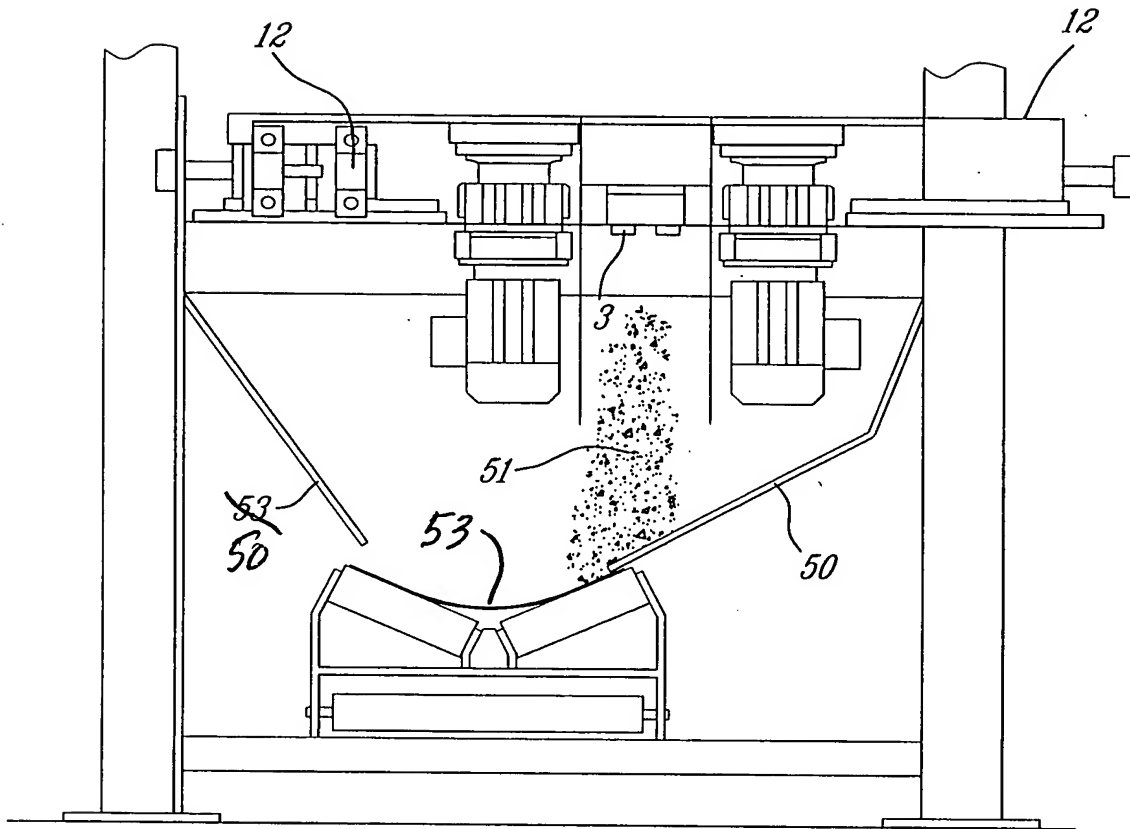


Fig. 9

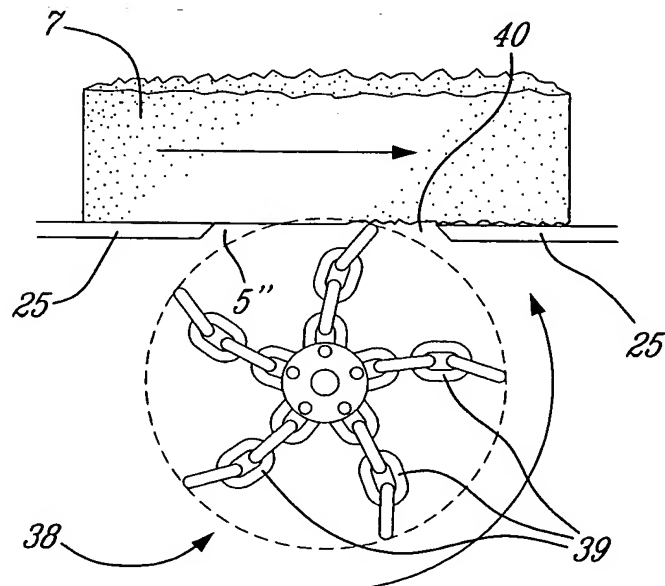


Fig. 10